



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa Orlando Jacksonville Ocala Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: AMY FILJONES
PHONE: (813) 274-6171
FAX: (813) 274-6300

ST. AUGUSTINE MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGE OF FAILURE TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces today that Michael Bruce Bennett (age 52, of St. Augustine) has been indicted for failure to register as sex offender in the State of Florida after traveling from the State of Washington. Bennett faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Bennett was arrested on this charge on November 5, 2010 in St. Augustine. Bennett will make an initial appearance in federal court today at 4:00 p.m. in Jacksonville before United States Magistrate Judge James R. Klindt.

This case was investigated by the United States Marshals Service, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, and the Clark County (Washington) Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue

victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed one or more violations of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.